

Title: A method for identifying a *Mycobacterium* species

Abstract

The invention relates to a method for identifying a *Mycobacterium* species comprising the steps of:

a) contacting at least one immuno-cross reactive antigen component of a mycobacterial species with a sample of a body fluid of a human or animal individual;

b) contacting at least one antibody, which is capable of reacting with a mycobacterial antigen, with said body fluid sample;

c) detecting the presence of antigen-antibody complexes, and identifying the *Mycobacterium* species present in said body fluid sample.